

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-3, and 12-14 as follows:

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector comprising:
a dielectric housing;
a plurality of terminals received in said housing;
a latch extending from the housing and comprising a locked portion for
5 locking with a complementary connector and a pressing portion for being exerted on
by an external force, the pressing portion and the dielectric housing defining a space
therebetween; and
a retaining device comprising ~~at least a main body movably received in said~~
~~space.~~ a main portion insertable in a first direction into said space beneath the
10 pressing portion to prevent latching of the latch, the retaining device being
removable upon movement of the retaining device in a second direction opposite to
said first direction.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The electrical connector as claimed in claim
1, wherein the locked portion of the latch is a hook ~~adapt~~ adapted for being received
in a recess of the complementary connector.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The electrical connector as claimed in claim
1, wherein the retaining device is a tie wrapped around the housing, ~~and the tie~~
~~comprises a~~ including the main portion with a plurality of serrations formed thereon
and a locking portion at one end of the main portion, the main portion having a
segment received in the space.

Claim 4. (Original) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 3, wherein
the thickness of the main portion of the tie is substantially equal to the height of the
space between the pressing portion and the dielectric housing.

Claims 5. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the housing defines at least one frame on a top surface from which the latch extends, and the retaining device comprises a main body and a pull tab at one end of the main body, the main body passing through the at least one frame and received in the space between the pressing portion and the dielectric housing, the thickness of the main body being substantially equal to a height of the space.

Claim 6. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 5, wherein the main body of the retaining device is formed with at least one rib, and the at least one frame each defines a cavity having a height slightly larger than a thickness of the main body but slightly smaller than the thickness of the rib.

Claim 7. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 6, wherein the at least one rib includes two ribs, and the at least one frame includes two frames, one of the two ribs which is adjacent the pull tab having a height smaller than the other rib.

Claim 8. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the housing is formed with a pair of projecting ears at opposite sides thereof, and each projecting ear defines a cavity therein, the retaining device including a lever received in the space between the pressing portion and the housing and a pair of arms extending forwardly from the lever and retained in the cavities of the projecting ears, the thickness of the lever being substantially equal to a height of the space.

Claim 9. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 8, wherein each arm of the retaining device is formed with at least one rib to have an interferential engagement with a corresponding projecting ear.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 9, wherein the at least one rib includes two ribs, one of the two ribs which is adjacent the lever having a height smaller than that the other rib.

Claim 11. (Original) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the latch comprises a support integrally extending from the housing, and the locked portion and the pressing portion are respectively located at opposite sides of the support.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector comprising:
a first electrical connector comprising:
a first dielectric housing;
a plurality of first terminals received in the first dielectric housing;
a latch extending from the first housing and comprising a locked portion for locking with a complementary connector and a pressing portion for being exerted on by an external force, the pressing portion and the first dielectric housing defining a space therebetween; and
a retaining device comprising ~~at least a main body movably received in said space:~~ a main portion insertable in a first direction into said space beneath the pressing portion to prevent latching of the latch, the retaining device being removable upon movement of the retaining device in a second direction opposite to said first direction:
a second dielectric housing defining a recess for receiving said hook portion of the latch; and
a plurality of second terminals received in the second dielectric housing.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The electrical connector assembly as claimed in claim 12, wherein the retaining device is a tie wrapped around the first dielectric housing, ~~and the tie comprises a~~ comprising the main portion with a plurality of serrations formed thereon and a locking portion at one end of the main portion, the main portion having a segment for ~~received~~ receiving in the space.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The electrical connector assembly as claimed in claim 13, wherein ~~a~~ the thickness of the main portion of the tie is substantially equal to ~~a~~ the height of a space between the pressing portion and the first dielectric housing.

Claims 15. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first housing defines at least one frame, and the retaining device comprises a main body and a pull tab at one end of the main body, the main body passing through the at least one frame and received in the space between the pressing portion and the dielectric housing, the thickness of the main body being substantially equal to a height of the space.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 15, wherein the main body of the retaining device is formed with at least one rib, and the at least one frame each defines a cavity having a height slightly larger than a thickness of the main body but slightly smaller than the thickness of the rib.

Claim 17. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 16, wherein the at least one rib includes two ribs, and the at least one frame includes two frames, one of the two ribs which is adjacent the pull tab having a height smaller than the other rib.

5 Claim 18. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first housing is formed with a pair of projecting ears at opposite sides thereof, and each projecting ear defines a cavity therein, the retaining device including a lever received in the space between the pressing portion and the first housing and a pair of arms extending forwardly from the lever and retained in the cavities of the projecting ears, the thickness of the lever being substantially equal to a height of the space.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 18, wherein the at least one rib includes two ribs, one of the two ribs which is adjacent the lever having a height smaller than that the other rib.

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Claim 20. (Original) The electrical connector as claimed in claim 12, wherein the latch comprises a support integrally extending from the first housing, and the hook portion and the pressing portion are respectively located at opposite sides of the support.